

"AUNT LILY" USED AS A CONVENIENCE

She Was Invented by Mme. Steinhell to Aid in Her Amours.

FRENCH IDEA OF REPORTING

New Light Is Thrown on the Mysterious Case in Paris.

PARIS, December 25.—Mme. Steinhell, the much-discussed woman, who is accused of the murder of her husband, Adolphe Steinhell, the painter, is credited with creating a character which certainly will live in Paris. She has invented "Aunt Lily," a character who, when she went to her villa at Bellevue to entertain one of her wealthy lovers, she used to explain her absence to her family by saying she was going to see her Aunt Lily, a rich and eccentric lady, who lived in the country. Mme. Steinhell, who did not want to know her husband or daughter, if all the family were at Bellevue and she wanted to get rid of them, she told them Aunt Lily was coming, and sent them off to the house in Paris.

Three days last week the judge d'instruction, or inquiring magistrate, Andre, examined Mme. Steinhell, keeping her under fire for five or six hours each day. On each of the three days after the Paris newspapers printed columns on what had been said at each interrogation, some of them giving the judge's questions and the prisoner's replies "verbatim." And yet the only persons present, in addition to the magistrate and the prisoner, were his clerk, her lawyer, Maitre Aubin, and his assistant, Maitre Landowski, no one of whom has told anything about what passed. How, then, are these accounts obtained and what are they worth?

The reporters whose duty it is to cover the proceedings of the Palais de Justice meet each evening at a cafe and pool all the points they have been able to pick up during the day. They make up their minds as to what they will say in their articles, and then each one bases his report on this presumption. Their versions, therefore, bear an appearance of consistency, but differ materially on important points if compared with any care. One newspaper alone has had the honesty to state that "nothing is known of what happens in M. Andre's office, the strictest orders having been given by the minister of justice himself on the subject, and the long detailed accounts given by some are absolute fabrications."

Only little confidence can be placed in the reports of what Mme. Steinhell told the judge, only a summary need be given. She confessed that her affection for her husband had died, giving for a reason the receipt of anonymous letters accusing him of immoral habits. Once she was wise to favor him for this reason, but he opposed her on account of the daughter. She allowed that she had lovers, but could not say if her husband was aware of it; at least he never let her know that he was. Her love for her mother-in-law, however, was not so strong. She had induced her to marry Steinhell, her mother's motive being to take advantage of Steinhell's infatuation for her by giving her no dowry, her mother having made great sacrifices to give the other two daughters dowries. She accused her mother of living in her house, and of having taken advantage of the money she had given her.

Remarkable Christmas Present.

Among the curious Christmas presents of this year will be one for a man of national reputation, which has been all year in the making.

Way last January the present was decided upon, and a friend of the prominent gentleman requested the Burrelle Press Clipping Bureau, of New York, to watch every paper in America and to take up every item which appeared concerning the man.

The clipping bureau people followed instructions, and now present the history of one year in the life of this central man.

The history ends just after election, and the \$6,422 newspaper items found include everything from a three-line editorial mention to full-page illustrated stories. These have been mounted on 3200 great sheets of Italian paper and bound into three massive volumes.

At the head of each item is the name and date of paper clipped from, this information having been put in with a book typewriter. The words thus inserted amount to 163,882.

In actual time, a very strict record of which has been kept, the work has required sixty-four working days throughout the year, and has kept in employment during that time thirty people, as readers, clippers, sorters, mounters and binders. Every newspaper of importance is represented.

This is merely a specimen of some of the unique orders which get into the Burrelle Bureau, for the extent to which clippings are used by individuals and by business concerns seems to be remarkable.

There are many people in private as well as in public life who need press clippings and don't know it. It might be well for them to look up this man, Burrelle, who is said to be so well known that a letter simply addressed "Burrelle, New York," will reach him with no delay.

Have only one doctor just one

No sense in running from one doctor to another! Select the best one, then stand by him. No sense in trying this thing, that thing, for your cough. Carefully, deliberately select the best cough medicine, then take it. Stick to it. Ask your doctor about Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for throat and lung troubles.

due to a very violent pressure on the neck, and that his arms were found of having been violently held. Mme. Japy, they concluded, had been strangled by a cord which had cut into her neck and her false teeth had been driven down her throat by the enormous mass of cotton wool that had been thrust into her mouth.

Now Dr. Achery was the regular doctor of the Steinhell family—in fact, he had been called in to see Mme. Japy on the Saturday of the murder, and Dr. Sufti had attended Mme. Steinhell; therefore a doubt exists on this first autopsy, many believing that it was part of the hushing-up policy of which Magistrate Leydet is accused.

One, at least, of Mme. Steinhell's admirers shows no reluctance as to talking about her. Count de Baillecourt says: "I really can't understand why people seem so terribly afraid of recalling their friendship with the Steinhell family. What do they fear—the eminent functionary of fine arts, Mr. D. B.—and Judges L.—, Lem— and B.—, or General D.—, or those eminent merchant princes, C.—, T.— and N.— of Paris; B.— of Ardennes, or the other B.— of Anjou? Why should the charming Countess of T.— find it a reproach to have eaten a dinner cooked by Marlette? What have we all to fear? A little ridicule? And after that? It's a long time now since ridicule killed any one."

"I met Mme. Steinhell one evening on the Metropolitan Underground Railway. In the crush of leaving a station a young woman cried out. I intervened and helped her up the stairs. Outside she thanked me. I gave her my name. She invited me to come and see her husband, who was an artist. Some days later I called, and the husband showed me his work. It was of Meissonier's style, but style only. Shortly after he proposed to paint my portrait. I agreed. I have only a very small headshot of her. He is small, puny and miserable, who painted with a magnifying glass—little things tremulously worked up, and had no point of view for the affairs of real life. They say much evil of him. I believe they are wrong; he seemed to me incapable of any action at all, even bad one."

"His wife was a woman of grace and excessive amiability, with a constant wish to please every one. In many circumstances this exaggerated mania to charm neighbors on disease."

The count added that the police had been the quest of the clock, and so far from wanting him to talk about the affair had stopped him and said, "Well, I don't suppose you want the story talked about? No? Well, don't let us talk about it, and remain quiet."

All the amateur Sherlock Holmeses in Paris have been exercising their skill in the question of the clock. They were found stopped in the house of the murder. One was a long grand-father's clock, which had stopped at twelve minutes past midnight, and the other was a small clock from beside M. Steinhell's bed, found in a cupboard, marking the same time. At the time of the murder it was taken from the house, and the clock had been shaken by the burglars, possibly in the struggle, or purposely stopped, so that its ticking or striking should not prevent them hearing any one approaching. At any rate, it was concluded that they marked the time of the crime. But now it is suspected that they were altered, moved back some hours with a view of establishing an alibi. The question has been raised whether the striking machinery was altered at the same time as the hands; this does not seem to have been tested at the time of the murders, and when a reporter tested the clock some months after the striking movement was correct with the time. An expert clockmaker has been charged with the task of examining this clock to see if the state of its works will show whether it has been deranged by being turned back, and M. Bertillon has been instructed to search for any finger marks on the pendulum and machinery. No satisfactory explanation for Mme. Steinhell's case has been brought forward.

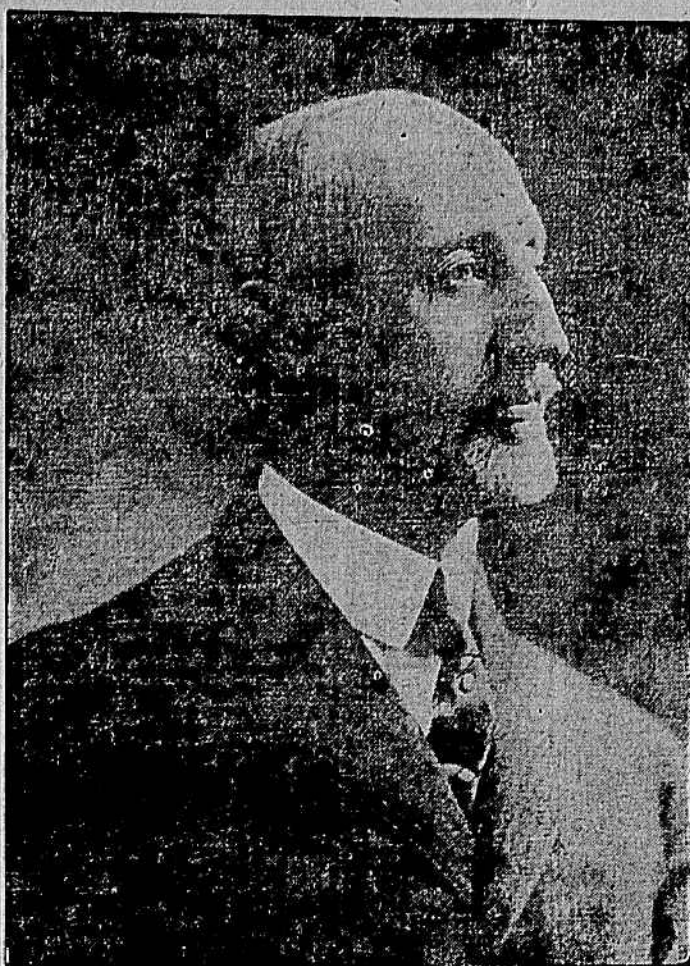
The murders were committed the last day of May, June, July, August, September and October passed without the inquiry making any progress, and the affair had dropped entirely out of public interest when, on October 11, Mme. Steinhell wrote a letter to a newspaper saying that long clocks similar to those the murderers had worn had been stolen from the Yiddish Theatre in Rue Saint Denis. How she knew this has not been found out. Now M. Boderol, madame's friend from the Ardennes, whom she hoped to marry, had continued to send her money after the murders by the hand of his friend, M. Martin. M. Martin told the magistrate that when he gave her a sum of money on October 15th he told her that M. Boderol would only consent to see her again when she had established her innocence. Was it this intimation that caused her to write the letter of a fortnight later which has resulted in her own arrest?

Mme. Steinhell's two sisters, Mme. Herr and Mme. Seyrig, have formally protested against the statements attributed to Mme. Steinhell regarding their mother. They state explicitly that their sister adored their mother, and that there never was the least ill feeling between mother and daughter; that it is untrue that Mme. Japy lived on her daughter, as she had an income of over \$2,000 a year, and was sufficient for her style of life; they add that though they had given up visiting their sister's house, owing to her mode of life, they both having families of their own, they had kept up affectionate relations with her.

The most sympathetic, if not the only sympathetic, figure in the whole tragedy is the daughter, Marthe Steinhell. She had looked forward to marrying her lifelong playmate, Louis Buisson, but now his father declares there was no engagement, and has sent his son into the army to work his way up from a private to a commissioned sergeant, over, satisfactory to find Louis Buisson quoted as saying:

"I have no impressions on the Steinhell affair. I don't know the Steinhell family. I know only Marthe Steinhell. I know that Marthe had a lot of trouble in her life, and that it was not her fault. I have always known her as a very good girl."

DELAWARE'S CONGRESSMAN



WILLIAM E. HEALD, close personal friend of Senator Du Pont and uncompromising foe of Addicks.

for what her parents may have done, and I shall marry her, whatever happens."

A well-known painter, who naturally is unwilling to have his name printed, thus speaks of Mme. Steinhell: "Although my friendship with Mme. Steinhell was not nearly so close as that she had made with Massenet, whom I have seen accompanying her on the piano, or with Bonnat, who painted her in evening dress, or other judicial or financial leading men, I have received the Steinhells at my house several times, and I and my wife have more than once been their guests at their house."

"I had heard so many rumors about her that I watched her very closely. Those who knew her used to talk of her lovers. Two of them I knew personally (I don't refer to M. Boderol), and I can assure you they paid very highly for the friendship of the lady. Some attacked her reputation, some defended it; these would say: 'If she received so much money as that she wouldn't wear the same poor little dress a whole season, and she would be wearing real pearls.'"

"And Mme. Steinhell was not the elegantly dressed woman people now say she was. She dressed rather without taste. At the beginning of the season she would have a dress made by a woman who worked by the day in her house, and she would wear it continually. When her friends made a remark about it, she would say: 'My husband doesn't earn enough money to let me patronize the Rue de la Paix.'"

"Many knew that Mme. Steinhell possessed a magnificent pearl necklace, presented by an admirer of her high rank. When some of her friends admired it she would say: 'Don't be deceived; they are false; my husband couldn't give me real ones.' 'As a matter of fact, she possessed two necklaces—one real and the other false.'"

"And the sumptuous dinners to which she invited her acquaintances! They were sent in from the most fashionable caterers, but if any one complained her on a dish she would exclaim: 'You may not believe it, but everything has been cooked at home by Marlette and me! With \$10 worth of knowing how to do it, we get what would cost a hundred in town.'"

"All of this was part of the line of conduct she had marked out to keep her reputation above suspicion."

"As for her hatred of her husband and mother, it would have been difficult to discover it. I suspected it. She surrounded her husband and mother with too many cares and attentions. She overdid it."

Whatever may be the value of this evidence, it confirms many other witnesses in one particular. No one ever saw any signs of ill feeling between Mme. Steinhell and her husband or her mother.

The house of the murder was the property of M. Steinhell, inherited from his father. When the father died it was valued at about \$12,000; to-day it is worth from \$15,000 to \$18,000. A mortgage of \$5,000 was put on it in 1895, when M. Steinhell enlarged and improved it. Mme. Steinhell brought her husband a dowry of \$10,000 in stocks of the Japy Manufacturing Company, which pays a high dividend. Her mother, however, had the usufruct of the interest on this money until her death.

Apart from the sale of his pictures, M. Steinhell made a good deal of money by designing for stained glass windows. His friends say that although it is naturally difficult to make an approximation he probably made \$30,000 since the year of his marriage, twenty-one years ago.

Why Don't You Get a Bottle T-Day?

RHEUMATISM FOR RHEUMATISM

Why delay. The very best test is a personal trial. You risk only a few cents, and if you delay you continue to suffer. At all drug stores, or Phone 525. (6)

COLLEGE BUILDING BURNS TO GROUND

Eastern College Sustains Heavy Loss in Christmas Day Fire.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

FRONT ROYAL, VA., December 25.—The handsome three-story brick building of Eastern College, containing the recitation rooms, art studio and dormitories, was totally destroyed by fire this afternoon.

The origin of the fire is supposed to have been from the overheating of a stove on the third floor. On account of lack of water, the nearest plug being full a quarter of a mile from the building, the firemen could only save the contents. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

At 8:30 o'clock this evening I. F. Mather, dean of the faculty, stated that in spite of the fire the Eastern College would open after vacation as if nothing had happened. Already plans are under way to rebuild at once, as the building destroyed was only one of the four. Practically no interruption will result.

WORK EARNS PRAISE

Troopers and Batterymen at Fort Myer Give Exhibition.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] ALEXANDRIA, VA., December 25.—Troopers and artillerymen at Fort Myer yesterday gave what was regarded as the best exhibition of drill since General Franklin Bell, chief of staff, and a number of other officers were among the observers.

The Thirteenth Cavalry, was commanded by Captain Rayson, and Battery D, Third Field Artillery, by Captain T. N. Horn. The men worked well together in a regular troop and battery maneuvers. Then followed difficult turns in rough riding. The men did pyramids on horseback, first four, then six and then ten men on four horses taking the hurdles at a gallop.

One of the novel features of the display was wrestling on horseback. Privates Hahn and Cushing carried off the palm in this work, dismounting five opponents without suffering a fall.

DEAD BODY FOUND.

Empty Laudanum Bottles Tell Story of Suicide.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., December 25.—Lying on the ground with four empty laudanum bottles close by the dead body of William Byers, aged sixty years, who disappeared from his home, in Balfour, N. C., ten days ago, was found near the foot of Stoney Mountain, half a mile from Balfour. The condition of the remains indicated that Byers had been dead about a week.

There is no known reason why Byers should have committed suicide. He left the home of his daughter, Mrs. James Gallamore, at Hendersonville, about ten days ago, and had not been seen or heard of up to the discovery of his body yesterday. He was apparently in good health and spirits when he left his daughter's house, but is known to have brooded considerably over the death of his son, who committed suicide some years ago. Mr. Byers, who, up to several months ago, was employed by the Balfour Quarry Company, was a brother-in-law of ex-Congressman Gogder, of Asheville. The body was taken to Hendersonville, where interment took place.

CUPID'S BUSY SEASON.

Large Number of Marriage Licenses Issued.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] LYNCHBURG, VA., December 25.—Although the number of marriage licenses issued in the city will hardly be as large as last year, there have been quite a number of marriages during the past day or two, among them being the following:

Arthur Jackson McFadden, of Appomattox county, and Miss Catherine Chevalier; James Edward Tucker and Miss Emily Grace Dickey; James Edward Carpenter and Miss Corrie Lee Foley; Leo Russell Wood and Miss Alice Bell Wright; William McLennan and Miss Marie McLennan; Edward Leslie Tolley and Miss Bettie Booker Combs; William James Funkhouser and Miss Little Mary Coffey; James Edward Burnett and Miss Clementine E. Andrews; Luther O. Arthur and Miss Fannie Vivian Hicks; Emmett N. Godsey and Miss Lella Gertrude Thompson; Kelly Hendricks and Miss Sallie Pimpley Brooks; George P. Fortune and Miss Leslie E. Stinnett; and Campbell county, Richard H. Martin and Miss Mary Lou Foster.

News of Petersburg

Times-Dispatch Bureau, 109 North Sycamore Street, Petersburg, Va., December 25.

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For the first time in the history of the city the saloons were closed to the public, and this fact of itself contributed in large measure to an orderly celebration. There was an absence, too, of the noise and turbulence incident to the indiscriminate and careless use of fireworks in the business section of the city, an ordinance lately passed prohibiting their use on Sycamore Street from Washington to Bank streets. In this section are many of the largest and handsomest stores in town, and great quantities of cotton, peanuts and other produce are stored. The ordinance furthermore prohibits the use of fireworks in the neighborhood of churches and industrial plants, far from the destruction of valuable property. So that only on the side streets or on private premises could the works be lawfully fired.

Very little drunkenness was observed on the street, and no accidents or disturbances of consequences were reported. A beautiful feature of the day was the large-hearted charity bestowed. The King's Daughters, the Associated Charities, the Elks and other secret organizations, the churches and liberal-hearted citizens as well, took large part in their remembrances of the needy and the unfortunate in the distribution of clothes, food, fuel and delicacies, and if there was one person in the whole city, man, woman or child, who was overlooked in this respect, it was because their needs were unknown. In respect of charity the day was a notable one.

The Christmas traffic was the heaviest known in years, and merchants generally agree to this fact. For many days the passenger trains on all the railroads were crowded with shoppers coming and going, and in carrying the Christmas freights, and with extra force at work the express company and the post-office department were put to their utmost to meet the demands upon them.

Personal and Otherwise. Mr. John E. Harvill, the efficient superintendent of the Virginia Passenger and Power Company in Petersburg, was presented yesterday with a handsome silver service of twelve pieces by the employees of the company in token of their esteem.

Christmas trees in churches for the benefit of the Sunday school children and at private residences for the benefit of families and friends will be numerous here next week.

Postmaster Stith Bolling, who has served as such for eighteen years, today followed his annual custom in presenting to each of his employees a good fat Diawiddle turkey for their Christmas dinner. And this custom in many ways was followed by other employers of labor.

A ball from a pistol carelessly fired on the street last evening entered the window of the store of Gill & Hoy, at the corner of Sycamore and East Tabb Streets, but fortunately struck no one.

Injured By a Kicking. David Jones, colored, was severely injured to-day by a kicking he received at the feet of John Pryor, colored. Jones received an ugly wound on the left face, which required stitching and cast plaster, and bumps on the head. Pryor is in jail.

The Petersburg Gas Company has just installed a new gas holder of 250,000 cubic feet capacity, at a cost of \$15,000. The tank was built by a Philadelphia firm.

Mr. A. H. T. Spencer, a former citizen of Petersburg, later of Australia, and now of Raleigh, N. C., is visiting his old home and friends here for the holidays.

Badly Hurt by Cannon Cracker. Mr. John Emory, a citizen of Prince George, residing about two miles from the city, was badly hurt at his home in the county to-day by the explosion of a cannon cracker. He had ignited the fuse, when his attention was for a moment directed elsewhere. The cracker exploded in his right hand, tearing the fingers apart and causing great laceration of the hand. His right ear was also split, and he was almost stunned by the force of the explosion. Dr. W. P. Hoy, of this city, was called to attend the wounded man, and dressed his injuries.

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Badly Hurt by Cannon Cracker. Mr. John Emory, a citizen of Prince George, residing about two miles from the city, was badly hurt at his home in the county to-day by the explosion of a cannon cracker. He had ignited the fuse, when his attention was for a moment directed elsewhere. The cracker exploded in his right hand, tearing the fingers apart and causing great laceration of the hand. His right ear was also split, and he was almost stunned by the force of the explosion. Dr. W. P. Hoy, of this city, was called to attend the wounded man, and dressed his injuries.

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